

From column by Max Frankel, datelined Washington, 22 Sep, covering several topics. Column is titled "White House Has Trouble Convincing Reporters that President Won't Slip Off to China," and is filed Nix Ad.

A new statistic, momentarily defying meaningful interpretation, came to light today at a symposium here sponsored by the Association of Federal Investigators. Excluding agents of Military Intelligence and the Federal Bureau of Investiga-

tion, there are said to be 34,000 investigators in the employ of the Federal Government, including 12,000 engaged primarily in criminal investigation.

The sleuths are scattered among two dozen agencies, ranging from the Food and Drug Administration to the Internal Revenue Service. Liberal critics have often expressed a fear of too much Government snooping, but they have also periodically decried the shortage of investigators in agencies that police business operations and otherwise attempt to protect consumers.